

A. To this conclusion we were led believing that the constitution in its true spirit, meaning and construction, only intended the power of appointment to be exercised by the Executive body in cases only of emergency and pressing necessity; but under every other circumstance confides it to the Legislature as the most competent and proper organ to declare the public will.

It has pleased divine Providence to visit our State, as well as our sister States, during the present year, with an unusual degree of disease and mortality. These inflictions it is our duty to bear with pious awe and Christian resignation, and to consider them as salutary chastisements intended by a benevolent father to awaken his sinful and rebellious children to a sense of their duty, and thereby lead them to prepare, in time, for that unchangeable doom which will be awarded to each at the bar of celestial Justice. That we have been spared by divine mercy, when many of our friends have fallen around us, ought to excite our most grateful emotions, adoration and praise, and make us prostrate ourselves in humiliation and prayer before the supreme disposer of all human events for the unnumbered blessings bestowed upon us. For this purpose we recommend to the General Assembly to set apart a day to be devoted by the citizens of this State to the worship and service of Almighty God, for a continuance of whose goodness towards us, we ought to supplicate the Throne of mercy.

The period having now nearly arrived which will terminate my constitutional term of service as Governor of this State, I avail myself of the opportunity which this communication affords of expressing my gratitude and thankfulness to the Legislature of Maryland, and my fellow citizens in general, for the many favours and indulgences I have received at their hands in the discharge of my official duties, and to bid them an affectionate farewell.

Samuel Sprigg

Council Chamber December 9th 1822

Gentleman of the Senate and

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

We transmit to the General Assembly the enclosed documents for their consideration and have the honour to be their most obedient fellow citizens

Samuel Sprigg